

Application No. 09/831,861
Amendment dated November 13, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 18, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 13, 21, 22, 27, and 29 - 34 are pending.
The remaining claims have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of the previous versions of claims 9 and 13, namely, that the through hole has a boss, that the film overlies and is bonded to the radial tip surface of the boss, and that bonding takes place by entry of resin into the pores of the film. Claim 1 also recites that only one side of the film is bonded to the boss.

The amended version of claim 1 distinguishes the invention from the prior art applied in the final rejection. Lake has no boss. A boss is incidentally present in Vincent as a result of the formation of an annular groove for channeling of water. However, Vincent utilizes a porous plug, and provides no suggestion of bonding a film to a radial tip surface of the boss. Moreover, Lake's membrane is insert-molded so that the housing is molded around the membrane. None of the references suggests bonding only one side of the film to a boss.

Claim 13 has been written in independent form. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 13 is requested because, like the amended version of claim 1, claim 13 recites that the through hole has a boss, and that the film overlies and is bonded to the radial tip surface of the boss. Here, as in the case of claim 1, there is no suggestion of bonding a film to a radial tip surface of the boss. Claim 13 also recites that only one side of the film is bonded to the tip surface of the boss.

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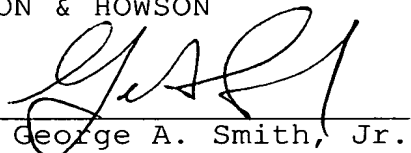
New independent claim 32, corresponds closely to the previous version of claim 1, but includes the recitation that only one side of the film is bonded to the resin body. As pointed out above, in Lake, insert molding results in a structure wherein both sides of the film are bonded to the resin body. There is no teaching in the art of record which would lead a person skilled in the art to produce a sealed resin case having a porous film, in which only one side of the porous film is bonded to the resin body.

For the reasons stated above, each of the independent claims, independently of its product-by-process language, a structure that is neither anticipated, nor shown to have been obvious, by the art of record.

The applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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